consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 28, in the presence and absence of a candidate compound; and

b) determining whether the presence of the candidate compound modulates the interaction of the potassium channel or fragment thereof with said 9q PCIP polypeptide, thereby identifying a compound suitable for treating a cardiovascular disorder.

17. **(Amended)** A method for identifying a compound suitable for treating a cardiovascular disorder comprising:

a) contacting a biologically active fragment of a 9q PCIP polypeptide comprising at least 10 amino acid residues of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 28 or a cell expressing said biologically active fragment of said 9q PCIP polypeptide with a test compound; and

b) determining whether said biologically active fragment binds to said test compound, thereby identifying a compound suitable for treating a cardiovascular disorder.

18. **(Amended)** The method of claim 17, wherein the binding of said test compound to said biologically active fragment of said 9q PCIP polypeptide, is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

a) detection of binding by direct detection of test compound/biologically active fragment binding;

b) detection of binding using a competition binding assay; and

c) detection of binding using an assay for PCIP activity.

19. **(Amended)** A method for identifying a compound suitable for treating a cardiovascular disorder, comprising:

a) incubating a cell expressing i) a potassium channel comprising a Kv4.3 or Kv4.2 subunit, or a fragment of a potassium channel comprising a Kv4.3 or Kv4.2 subunit, and ii) a biologically active fragment of a 9q PCIP polypeptide comprising at least 10 amino acid residues of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 28, in the presence and absence of a candidate compound; and

b) determining whether the presence of the candidate compound modulates the interaction of the potassium channel or fragment thereof with said biologically active fragment of said 9q PCIP polypeptide, thereby identifying a compound suitable for treating a cardiovascular disorder.

Please add new claim 24 as follows:

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the EF domain is selected from the group consisting of:

a) residues 116-127, 153-164, 189-200, or 237-248 of SEQ ID NO:14;

b) residues 103-114, 140-151, 176-187, or 224-235 of SEQ ID NO:16;

c) residues 116-127, 153-164, 189-200, or 237-248 of SEQ ID NO:18;

d) residues 98-109, 135-146, 171-182, or 219-230 of SEQ ID NO:20;

e) residues 98-109, 135-146, 171-182, or 219-230 of SEQ ID NO:22;

f) residues 116-127, 103-114, 139-150, or 187-198 of SEQ ID NO:24;

g) residues 66-77, 103-114, 189-200 or 237-248 of SEQ ID NO:26; and

h) residues 98-109, 135-146, 171-182, or 219-230 of SEQ ID NO:28.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated March 12, 2002 and the Advisory Action dated August 13, 2002, in which the Examiner indicated that amended claims 1 and 2 would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment. Claims 1-3, 11-12, and 15-23 were pending in the application. Claim 22 has been cancelled, without prejudice, claims 1, 3, 17, 18, and 19 have been amended and new claim 24 has been added. Accordingly, after the amendments presented herein have been entered, claims 1-3, 11-12, 15-21, 23 and 24 will be pending. For the Examiner's convenience all of the pending claims are set forth in Appendix A.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendments. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

Support for the amendment to the specification can be found at page 1, lines 6-11 wherein the entire contents of United States Patent application 09/298,731 were expressly incorporated by reference. The paragraph that has been inserted into the instant